

Message Text

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47

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY DOD:JKELIHER:SBC
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NSC:MPOWER
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EUR/RPM:VLEHOVICH
OSD/ISA:LMICHAEL
S/S - MR. GAMMON

----- 081754

O P 091807Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 221579
EXDIS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW

SUBJECT : MBFR DATA; TANK FIGURES
REF: BONN 16014, USNATO 5336, STATE 211555, STATE 216222,
BONN 15881
VIENNA FOR US MBFR DEL
1. YOUR EFFORTS TO SECURE GERMAN AGREEMENT TO THE 15,500
WARSAW PACT MAIN BATTLE TANK FIGURE ARE MOST APPRECIATED.

2. THE USG HAS NO OBJECTION TO WESTERN SPOKESMEN STATING
QUOTE THESE FIGURES ARE FOR MAIN BATTLE TANKS IN UNITS
UNQUOTE. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, WISH WESTERN SPOKESMEN TO
RAISE THE ISSUE OF TANKS IN STORAGE WHENEVER MAIN BATTLE
TANK FIGURES ARE USED. WE SEE NO BENEFIT IN DRAWING
EASTERN ATTENTION TO STORAGE ISSUE AT THIS TIME.

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3. YOU MAY INFORM FRG THAT USG ESTIMATE INDICATES A TOTAL
OF 2,000 WARSAW PACT MAIN BATTLE TANKS IN STORAGE WITHIN
NGA. APPROXIMATELY 1,500 OF THESE ARE EAST GERMAN AND
APPROXIMATELY 500 ARE CZECH.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR NATO STORED TANK FIGURES
YOU SHOULD STATE THAT THE USG IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING ITS
ESTIMATE ON NATO TANKS IN STORAGE IN THE NGA.

5. FYI. IN ANY EVENT, WE ARE PRESENTLY PROHIBITED BY
THE US NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY FROM RELEASING COUNTRY
BY COUNTRY TOTALS OF NATO MAIN BATTLE TANKS IN STORAGE
TO OTHER NATO COUNTRIES. END FYI. RUSH

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. KURZE, SS-O 11/9/73.

SECRET

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